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# STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 91 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Monday 25th May 2020
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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

# Namaz from home, virtual hugs mark Eid-ul-Fitr in city

## No mass prayer gatherings at Eidgah Maidan, no handshakes

Mysuru, May 25 (RK,DM& BCT)- Under the shadow of Coronavirus, Muslim community people are taking special precautions to mark Eid-ul-Fitr, the celebration today that breaks the month-long fast for Ramzan. This Eid there was no shaking of hands or no warm embracing for community members because of the stringent social distancing norms.

Prayer gatherings, outdoor festivals and other public events have been curtailed or cancelled to prevent the spread of the virus. As such, community members opted for at home prayers where family members got together inside rooms and terraces and prayed. Also, as virtual is the new reality, community members wished each other on video calls.

The most important public aspect of Eid-ul-Fitr is the special morning prayers offered in Eidgahs, which are large open spaces. It is called the Eid Namaz. Dressed in their best clothes, sporting colourful caps and smelling of perfume (Attar), the devout pray to the Almighty in gratitude for blessing them with the holy month of Ramzan.

Ever year in the past, thousands of Muslim brethren used to gather at Eidgah Maidan in Tilaknagar in city to offer mass prayers. This year, however, there were no public gatherings.

The Eid Namaz also has the ubiquitous practice of hugging and shaking hands – to promote brotherhood. The holy prayers were offered by the community members at their homes between 6 am and 11 am today. Only selected four to five people were present at Mosques to offer prayers so that the tradition is not broken. "There was no typical 'gale milana' (wishing each other with warm embracing) this year. The festive atmosphere was missing this Eid. Fighting the dreaded virus and saving humanity is more important than celebrating Eid," said Anwar Ahmed from Udayagiri. The Wakf Board had appealed to the community members to pray safe staying at their homes. Muslim religious leaders and the Sir Khazi of Mysuru Mohammad Usman Shariff too had given a call for safe celebration of Ramzan by offering prayers at homes.

(See NAMAZ on page 5)

**Greetings**

**STAR OF MYSORE** wishes its readers a happy *Eid-ul-Fitr.*

— **Management**

# Maintenance process set in motion at Jubilant Generics

## 90 employees called to work today to prepare machines for drug production

Mysuru, May 25 (BCT& LNY))- Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics, an extended arm of Jubilant Life Sciences, has been preparing to start operations. The company which was shut due to COVID-19 will resume operations soon with the guidelines by Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR). The State Government has already accorded clearance for its operations subject to a couple of conditions.

Production at the Jubilant Generics was shut due to Coronavirus positive cases and the Mysuru District Administration had quarantined the entire staff of around 1,552 persons in the plant and adjoining areas.

This morning, over 90 employees and technical staff were called to the factory for cleaning process and maintenance of machines.

(See JUBILANT on page 5)

**STAR PUNCH** By Satish Acharya

# Ban on use of saliva to shine ball

## Only an interim measure, says Kumble

New Delhi, May 25- ICC Cricket Committee Chairman Anil Kumble says the recommendation to ban saliva for shining the ball is only an interim measure and "things will go back to normal" once the COVID-19 pandemic is brought under control.

Players must be barred from using saliva to shine the ball but can continue to use their sweat, the Anil Kumble-headed ICC Cricket Committee recommended on Monday last as a major health precaution in the game. On Friday, the ICC, in its guidelines for resumption of the game, also suggested a bar on the practice.

"...this is only an interim measure and as long as we have hopefully control over COVID in a few months or a year's time then I think things will go back to as normal as it can be," Kumble said.

*Anil Kumble*

The ban on saliva has elicited mixed response from the bowlers, who said it would definitely come in the way of generating swing. But most have also acknowledged the health risk that it might pose. There have also been discussions on whether the ICC would allow usage of external substances like wax to shine the ball. Kumble said there were discussions on usage of external substances.

"...if you look back at the history of the game, I mean we have been very critical and we have been very focused on eliminating any external substances coming into the game," Kumble said of the speculation.

"Whether you are literally legalising, if you are looking to do that now which obviously has had a great impact over the last couple of years," he added.

He cited the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, which led to bans on Australian cricketers Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft. "ICC took a decision but then cricket Australia took, even a more tougher stance on what happened during that series between South Africa and Australia, so we did consider that," he said.

# 'We have to adapt to new methods'

City's Gautham Sagar, an all-rounder who has played in Karnataka Premier League (KPL) and is a BBA student of Sapient College in Mysuru, speaking to 'SOM' yesterday, said: "As far as I know, to shine the ball, sweat is the only alternative we have for saliva. We have to adapt to this new decision and play. It will definitely take time as applying saliva has come as a habit to shine the ball till now."

*Gautham Sagar*

Talking about cricketing activities, the aspiring cricketer said: "We do not have gym. Otherwise, we make sure we practice for a short duration whenever possible. Local cricket has not been affected much. By now, Bengaluru matches were supposed to start but now Mysuru league matches are still pending. Still three tournaments of this season are yet to complete."

"Skipping cricket for a year will definitely make difference in our cricketing career as the tournaments are held in age categories. I, personally, have two years to play in U-23 category and if matches are not held this year, I will be losing a year of opportunity.

I wish to play more cricket but we have to contain the pandemic and that has to be given priority now. However, it is okay if the cricketing activities are taken up only in COVID-19 Green Zone. But inviting Bengaluru players here would be risky to us and even it is difficult for them too to come and play here. As of now, we can play within Mysuru and inviting Bengaluru players is not necessary, is what I feel," he added.

# 'Life is more important than cricket'

On cricketing activities in Mysuru, Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) Mysuru Zone Convenor Sudhakar S. Rai, speaking to 'Star of Mysore' yesterday, said: "We have to follow the guidelines given by Cricket Board on future cricketing. Even we are afraid when it comes to junior cricket as we have more responsibilities if anything untoward happens. KSCA is not worrying much about starting up activities as of now. If we talk about Mysuru Zone, we have many league matches pending from 2019-2020. If activities are restarted, we will be finishing the league matches first and then we would take the guidance from Bengaluru on further action."

*Sudhakar S. Rai*

Speaking about the usage of saliva to shine the ball, he said: "I have come across a report where a player has said saliva is not necessary and rubbing the ball on the trousers is enough to shine the ball. Earlier, it had even become a controversy when an England bowler used Vaseline to shine the ball instead of saliva. So now, what has to be used instead of saliva, ICC only has to take a call — whether anything else can be used to shine the ball or should it only be rubbed against the cloth."

About the activities at KSCA ground in Mysuru, he said: "In order to maintain the ground, de-weeding and pitch reconditioning are being done from the past 10 days. KSCA Managing Committee Meeting is scheduled for May 29 in Bengaluru, where a decision will be taken about restarting the activities after June 1. However, KSCA President Roger Binny has said not to hurry in this regard as it is very risky. And even we do not want to take any risk. Even if the activities are skipped for a year, world will not come to an end. Life is more important than cricket."

# No fans, no saliva, hand sanitisers on boundary

## Welcome to a new-look T10 cricket

Kingstown, May 25- No fans allowed, no saliva on the ball and hand sanitisers on the boundary ropes. Welcome to cricket during Coronavirus as it's being played out in the Caribbean this week.

Six teams are taking part in the Vincy T10 Premier League at the picturesque Arnos Vale venue near Kingstown, the main city on St. Vincent.

Although very low key in the global affairs of international cricket, it's the first tournament to be staged in a Test-playing region since the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic. At first it was hoped that spectators would be allowed to attend as the risk of infection was considered to be extremely low in a country with just 18 recorded cases.

"The St. Vincent and Grenadines Cricket Association (SVGCA) would have preferred an option of a limited number of spectators, maybe 300 or 500 max in the stadium," admitted SVGCA President Kishore Shallow. "However, the experts expressed some initial concerns and advised that we attempt to regularise the management of players before we consider having spectators."

# Hockey Legend Balbir Singh Sr. dies aged 96

## He was also the Manager of India's only World Cup-winning side in 1975

Mohali, May 25- Balbir Singh Sr., one of India's greatest hockey players, died this morning after battling multiple health issues for over two weeks. The legend was 96 and is survived by his daughter Sushbir and three sons Kanwalbir, Karanbir and Gurbir.

*Balbir Singh*

"He died at around 6.30 this morning," Abhijit Singh, Director, Fortis Hospital, Mohali, where he was admitted since May 8, said. His grandson Kabir later sent out a message stating, "Nanaji passed away this morning."

The three-time Olympic gold medallist was in a semi-comatose state since May 18 and had developed a blood clot in his brain after being first admitted to the hospital for bronchial pneumonia with high fever. He was hospitalised after experiencing high fever and suffered three cardiac arrests during the course of his treatment.

One of the country's most accomplished athletes, the iconic centre-forward was the only Indian among 16 legends chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) across modern Olympic history.

His world record for most goals scored by an individual in the men's hockey final of the Olympics still remains unbeaten.

He had scored five goals in India's 6-1 victory over the Netherlands in the gold medal match at the 1952 Helsinki Games.

He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1957. Balbir Sr's three Olympic gold medals came in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) as Vice-Captain and Melbourne (1956) as Captain.

He was also the Manager of India's only World Cup-winning side in 1975.

It was the fourth time in the past two years that the former Captain and Coach was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). In January last year, Balbir Sr. spent more than three months in hospital because of bronchial pneumonia.

# German soccer fills stadium with cardboard fans

*The German soccer league Bundesliga's match between Borussia Mönchengladbach and Bayer Leverkusen on May 23 used cardboard pictures of fans to fill the seats at Borussia-Park in Moenchengladbach, Germany. Also included were cutouts of legendary players of Borussia Mönchengladbach's past. The visitors, Borussia Mönchengladbach, were also represented. In all, there were 20,000 cardboard cutouts, reported a section of the press. The match was played without actual fans due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic.*

## VOICE OF THE READER

# Use of face masks: Random checking need of the hour

Sir,

The stipulation that wearing of masks is compulsory is not at all being followed in the city. One has to only take a short drive outside to observe this. You will see auto drivers chatting in a group, at the auto stands, with most of them not wearing masks. Newspaper vendors do not wear masks. People are so casual about this.

Whose responsibility is it to check and penalise people for not following the guidelines? Is it the Police Department or the Health Department?

I appeal to the authorities concerned to please carry out random checks and penalise people who are not wearing masks, as is being done in Bengaluru.

**— S.A. Thimmiah**
**on e-mail**

V.V. Mohalla
24.5.2020

# Plug drainage leak

Sir,

The drainage in R.M.P Layout, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, 2nd Phase, has been leaking for the past six days. Even though a complaint was given no one seems to have responded so far.

I once again request the authorities concerned to plug the leakage at the earliest so that the tax-paying citizens are not inconvenienced.

**— N. Sreedhara**
Vijayanagar 4th Stage
24.5.2020

# Education Department's app, website to aid CET, NEET students

Mysuru, May 25- GetCETgo — Online CET and NEET Crash Course 2020, content powered by Deeksha, is a Government of Karnataka initiative to help all students of Karnataka prepare for CET 2020 and NEET 2020. Comprehensive study material in the form of Synopsis, Practice Questions, Chapter-wise Tests, Mock Tests and Revision Videos are available free to all students registered for CET 2020.

GetCETGo includes two types of content; one is CET examination related content and the other is NEET Examination related content, said Millind Chippalakatti, Academic Head, Deeksha.

The CET related content has the following: I and II PU related NCERT Physics, Chemistry, Math, Biology based synopsis videos and chapter wise short cuts (Mathematics), chapter wise selected 120 questions (in various forms), 4-5 chapters put together in combined tests. Apart from this, there are ten full length mock test papers. It also includes solved papers from the last ten years.

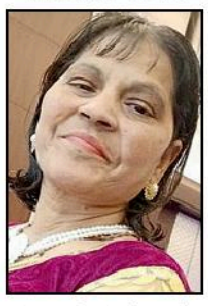
The level of difficulty in each subject has been maintained as per the CET examination. For each problem, solutions have been provided. This content has been developed by a set of senior faculty members who have been in this field for more than 25 years.

**The NEET related content has the following:** It includes Physics, Chemistry and Biology subject content. Using a very elaborative mode of explanation which covers all three subjects' chapter wise synopsis (both first and second year chapters are covered), not only is there concentration on the NCERT syllabus but also based on recent research, questions and detailed synopsis notes and videos have been provided. Apart from this, 15 full length papers have been given.

# Obituary

**Mary Jasmine Dove**

Mysuru, May 25- Mary Jasmine Dove (62), wife of Earl Dove and a resident of Shakthinagar, passed away yesterday night at a private hospital in city.



A retired Head Mistress of Teresian Buds Play Home, she leaves behind her husband, son Joy Anthony Dove, a Senior Executive (Advt-Sales) at *Star of Mysore*, daughter Irene Dove, daughter-in-law Florita, grand-daughter Mikayla Dove and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral was held at the Catholic Cemetery on Mahadevapura Road, Gandhinagar, this afternoon, according to family sources.

# Experience safe jewellery shopping at Malabar

Bengaluru, May 25- Malabar Gold and Diamonds has re-commenced its operations in Karnataka in a phased manner after complying with all the norms set by the Government following the outbreak of COVID-19.

"As the global pandemic has raised health concerns, and also to have a safe shopping environment, we are ensuring that all our showrooms are fumigated before the store operations, important surfaces are sanitised at every touch point on daily basis, all our staff members including the security will be wearing gloves, masks and sanitising their hands at frequent intervals. Routine Thermal checks are followed for every team member in the store. Screening of customers at the entry point by ensuring they are masked, Temperature checks for normal response and also by noting the address of every customer to avoid entry of customers from containment zone. As per Government instructions, social distancing is followed inside the store by customers being seated at safe distance from others. Waiting area will also hold social distancing in place by alternative seating arrangements. Social distancing markers are placed around the stores at visible locations. Sales team will sanitise the counters before and after they attend to every customer transaction. At the billing, in case of card payments, the cashier will sanitise the cards and machine before and after use followed by safe delivery of the jewellery. Customer safety will be our utmost priority," stated a press release from Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

For details, contact Huzail on Mob: 99452-57916.

# Another Bihar-bound Shramik Special ferries 1,164 migrants from Mysuru

Mysuru, May 25- The eight 'point-to-point' Shramik Special train from Mysuru Division, carrying 1,164 migrants, left Ashokapuram (Mysuru) Station on Sunday at 14:00 hrs for Purnia in Bihar.

This train is being run as per the request of the State Governments of Bihar and Karnataka. The train comprising 22 LHB coaches is scheduled to reach Purnia (2488 kms) on Tuesday (May 26) at 13:10 hrs.

After scrutiny and verification of documents of the registered migrants belonging to Mandya, Maddur and Hunsur, the authorities of the State Government completed the mandated screening process before allowing them to board the train.

Meanwhile, the State Government, in association with the Rotary Club of Mysore, provided food and water to the passengers. As per the extant arrangements, the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is taking care of the catering in the remaining portion of the journey in collaboration with the Railway Divisions in the path of the train.

Six Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel will be escorting the train, end-to-end, to address issues, if any, relating to law and order in coordination with the Police of the respective State Governments along the way. Passengers were instructed to compulsory wear face masks and maintain high standards of personal hygiene.

On May 23, a Shramik Special with a total of 1,520 migrants from Hassan and Chikmagalur districts left for Katihar in Bihar. This was the seventh Shramik train from Mysuru Division. Nodal Officers of Railways and Government of Karnataka co-ordinated the arrangements for smooth operation of the special train as per the guidelines issued for registration and screening.

While the local Mahaveer Jain Sangh provided food for the migrants at the starting point, IRCTC is coordinating with various Railway Divisions en route for supply of food till the train reaches the destination Station.

On an average, Indian Railways are running about 270 Shramik Specials everyday since the beginning of this month. Almost three lakh passengers have been transported per day in the last four days.

The Railways will be operationalising another 2600 Shramik Specials across the Indian Railway network in the next ten days as per the needs of various State Governments. This initiative is expected to benefit over 36 lakh migrants across the country, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager & PRO, South Western Railway, Mysuru Division.

# Desperate Tongawallahs seek revival package

**'We increase brand value of Mysuru tourism during season, let officials realise this'**

Mysuru, May 25 (RK, YDS & BCT)- We are under lockdown 4.0 and most of the businesses including the long-closed salons and beauty parlours have opened up for business. However, there is one business, a famed one in Mysuru that too, the Tonga ride business which is in dire straits and is desperate for a revival package. With no tourists and with not even an indication of tourist arrival in the coming days, these Tongawallahs are staring at an uncertain future.

Many of them do not know any other work except their age-old profession of taking tourists on a jolly ride or taking care of their animals. And they cannot even switch to any other profession during this time of a crisis, induced by an invisible creature we all call Coronavirus.

Ever since the nationwide lockdown was imposed, life was tough for these Tongawallahs who depend on daily earnings to not only feed themselves and their families but also the horses. They somehow managed for some days with the food and grocery kits supplied by charity organisations and some political activists. Now that too have stopped as all other businesses are open. Their life has not yet come back to track. These Tongas have stood the test of time and remain very much a part of the city's culture even to this day. With bright colours, LED lights and a canopy above to make the passengers comfortable, one can take a tour of the city including visit to important places like the Mysore Palace, Jaganmohan Palace, Lalitha Mahal Palace, Zoo and other tourist spots.

Summer and Dasara are the two seasons where they make most money in a year. This summer is a washout thanks to lockdown. Completely dependent on their horses for livelihood, they used to earn Rs. 800 to Rs. 1500 a day during summer. "Now there is no food for us and for our horses and we cannot do any other work. The tourism industry is closed and only now, the flights are operating. Still, it may take another year or so for the tourists to arrive in Mysuru," says Akram, a Tongawallah.

"I was at home for 2 months without work and I have not paid my rent. If the school season starts, I need at least Rs. 10,000 for school fees. Where will I go? The Government should announce a financial package for Tongawallahs too," he demands.

There are over 50 Tongas in Mysuru and 30 of them are ordinary Tongas and the rest are Sarot Tongas. Per day earning is spent on horse feed, grass, horse-shoe and they used to take home Rs. 500.

"We need around Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per day to maintain the horses. Now we are feeding maximum water to horses as there is no money to buy feed or grass. We are also spending most of our days loitering around and sleeping inside horse shelters," says Nagaraj, who has been a Tongawallah for over 20 years.

Tonga stands have been established near People's Park, Agrahara Circle and near Kukkarahalli Lake. "We can somehow manage our food by eating gruel. These horses need green grass, horse gram and a bit of fruits daily. Sometimes we get discarded vegetables and fruits from market. Unfortunately, these are not available readily now and we have to wait at least for 4 hours to get a small quantity of them. At least if the Govt., through the Tourism Department can arrange for daily feed for horses we can sustain. We increase the brand value of Tourism Dept. every tourist season. At least they can do this much for the animals," Nagaraj says.

**APMC Act amendment**

# KRRS to stage nationwide protest demonstration on May 27

Mysuru, May 25 (PM&DM)- Alleging that the recent amendment made by the Karnataka Government to the APMC (Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee) Act is detrimental to the interests of the farming community, the KRRS (Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha), in association with All India Farmer Movement Co-ordination Committee, will stage a nationwide demonstration on May 27.

Announcing this at a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House here on Saturday, KRRS State President Badagalapura Nagendra said that farmers will stage a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's Office and Taluk Offices in all districts of the State from 11 am to 12 noon on May 27, during which a memorandum will be submitted to the Government asking it to address all agrarian issues and come to the aid of distraught farmers.

Accusing the State Government of bowing to the pressure of the Centre in passing the ordinance to amend the APMC Act, Nagendra claimed that the amendment was anti-farmer and opens the door for the trading community to exploit the farmers.

Continuing, he said that the amendment not only hurts the farmers but also all others concerned with the APMC Market such as loaders, labourers, daily wagers, street vendors and small traders.

Maintaining that the Government should have ensured more stringent enforcement of the RMC Act, rather than amend the APMC Act, to punish those indulging in cheating and exploiting the farmers, he alleged that the State Government was out to benefit unscrupulous traders and capitalists.

Reacting to reports that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was not in favour of amending the Act but ultimately consented buckling to the pressure of the Centre, Nagendra said that speculations about this is doing rounds within the Chief Minister's close circles and he does not know the truth about it. Alleging that the APMC Act amendment also threatens food security and food culture of the State, he asserted that the amendment enables capitalists to gain monopoly over all farm produce besides proving highly disadvantageous for consumers too.

Terming the Government's recent actions of amendments to APMC Act, Labour Laws, Land Reforms Act and Land Acquisition Act as anti-democratic and anti-people, he said that the modalities for staging massive protests will be chalked out at a meeting to take place at CPI(M) Office in Bengaluru on June 10, which will be attended by a host of farmer organisations, labour unions and social groups.

KRRS office-bearers M.S. Ashwathnarayan Raje Urs, Hoskote Basavaraj and others were present at the press meet.

# Process on to resume stalled social security pensions

Mysuru, May 25 (RK&BCT)- The State Government has begun the process of distributing social security pensions like widow pension, old age pension and other financial aids. The process was stalled since January this year due to the merger of smaller banks to bigger financial entities and COVID-19.

Due to the merger of banks, the direct account transfer or Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) was hampered as there was a change in beneficiary account numbers and ISFC Codes. This had resulted in the deserving population not receiving their assured monthly pension.

There are over 6,000 such pensioners in Mysuru District and none of them had received the money. Now as the bank merger has been completed, beneficiaries have to submit an application at the Tahsildar Office in Mini Vidhana Soudha along with their pension order copy, Aadhaar Card and bank account passbook or the post office passbook or the postal slip provided by the postman.

Once received, the officials will approve such pensions and link the beneficiary bank account to the treasury so that the money is transferred every month directly. Even the pending pension since January will be credited to the beneficiary account, said Rakshith, Mysuru Tahsildar.

He said that the applications are being received and the process has been initiated. "As all the beneficiaries, especially the old and infirm cannot come to the Tahsildar Office, MLAs Tanveer Sait and S.A. Ramdas have directed us to go to the individual beneficiary houses to get the documents to link the bank accounts. We will initiate that process too and complete soon so that the pension system is streamlined," Rakshith told *Star of Mysore*.

# City advocate's car meets with accident; child dies

Mysuru, May 25 (OSR)- In a tragic incident, a city advocate's car met with an accident near H.D. Kote this morning killing his five-year-old daughter.

Advocate Dhananjay, who is a resident of Rajarajeshwarinagar in Mysuru, was driving his Mahindra Xylo (KA-45-M-1041) from H.D. Kote along with his family towards Mysuru today at around 9.30 am.

While Dhananjay works at the City Law Courts, his father works as Forest Department employee and settled in H.D. Kote. There were five occupants in the vehicle.

The accident occurred near Karigala when Dhananjay was avoiding a motorbike that was coming from the opposite direction. He lost control over the vehicle and the SUV turned topsy-turvy. The impact was such that the advocate's daughter Himani sustained severe injuries.

The family and passers-by rushed her to a hospital in H.D. Kote from where the child was referred to Apollo Hospital in Mysuru where she breathed her last. A case has been registered at H.D. Kote Police Station.

# Recovered alcoholic helps others to kick the habit

Mysuru, May 25 (YDS&SD)- 'Thiyagu', a Tamil movie released in 1990, proved to be quite popular in those times. It was based on Tamil novel 'Oru Manithanin Kadhai'. In that movie, the central character 'Thyagu', played by actor Raghuvaran, is an alcoholic and his life was ruined due to liquor addiction.

Born in a middle class family, the protagonist gets into the habit of drinking due to some family issues. The movie skilfully depicts the life of an alcoholic and its tragic end.

All alcoholics had a hard time due to lockdown. But on May 5, when the Government relaxed restrictions, liquor shops once again opened their doors. As a result, one could see people standing in serpentine queues to buy their favourite drink.

In contrast, here is a man who was once a binge drinker and now helping others to quit the habit. A resident of Janatanagar in city, Devaraju was just another householder. For some reason, he got addicted

*Devaraju*

to this habit. For him, every day began and ended with a drink. His alcohol abuse made him cold and meaner. As he started begging his friends for money, he became the target of ridicule. Finally, some of his friends admitted him to 'Recovery Foundation' at Mooganahundi near Mysuru for three months.

At the 'Recovery Foundation', Counsellors guided him to lead an alcohol-free life. Counselling sessions and support groups helped him to a great extent. After 90 days, Devaraju had a challenge that he never faced in life — to lead a healthy alcohol-free life or pick up a bottle again. He wisely chose the former.

Devaraju tearfully says, "On that day, I decided that I will never again drink. As a result, I am now living a healthier and happier life with my family. I can still remember those days where I used to abuse my parents for no reason, all because of my addiction."

"I decided help others at the same time. Now, I am working as a Counsellor for Recovery Foundation. Since 2014, I have counselled over 400 alcoholics. And of them, nearly 250 have quit this habit. For nearly 40-42 days, alcohol was not available due to lockdown. For about six weeks, most of them lived their normal life without a drink, but again, most of them have picked up bottles. I feel very sorry for them as this was a great opportunity for them to get rid of the habit," he says. Devaraju did not forget to urge them to come out of this habit. "It is never late to mend our ways," he adds.

# COVID-19 vaccine: India to begin clinical trials in 3-5 months

New Delhi, May 25 (UNI)- Four out of the 14 COVID-19 vaccine candidates from India may enter the clinical trial stage in the next three-five months, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said yesterday. In an online interaction with BJP Spokesperson G.V.L. Narasimha Rao, Dr. Vardhan said the entire world was working on developing a vaccine to halt the Novel Coronavirus pandemic. "There are more than 100 candidates for developing a vaccine that are working at different levels. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is coordinating the efforts," the Health Minister said.

"India is also actively contributing to that effort. We have 14 vaccine candidates that are working on different levels," he said. "Industry, academic world are contributing to it and our Ministry of Science is helping the Department of Biotechnology in all such efforts."

Financial support and regulatory clearance will be provided to those who are working on this, Dr. Vardhan said. "Out of these 14, four vaccine candidates, in the next three-five months, may enter the clinical trial stage. Right now, they are in the pre-clinical trial phase,"

*Dr. Harsh Vardhan*

the Minister said.

"It's very difficult to predict when a vaccine will come, but as a doctor, I can say that the process it involves, one year would be a modest estimate," he said. "Till the vaccine is not developed, people should use social vaccines like the mask and social distancing."

The Centre and private firms have stepped up efforts to develop a vaccine to halt the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The PM CARES Fund Trust has decided to allocate Rs. 100 crore in efforts to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. A PMO statement had said that a Coronavirus vaccine was the most pressing need and Indian academia, start-ups and industry had come together in cutting-edge design and development. The Department of Biotechnology has been made a central coordination agency to identify pathways for vaccine development.

# Maintenance process set in motion at Jubilant

**(Continued from page 1)**

The company had sought permission from the Karnataka Government to restart operations after its parent company Jubilant Life Sciences tied up with the US drug firm Gilead to manufacture and sell Remdesivir, which is considered to be a frontline drug to treat COVID-19.

Company sources told *Star of Mysore* this morning that it is for the first time after a gap of over two months the gates of the factory were opened. "Since it is a pharmaceutical company that is into manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), there are lots of maintenance work including oiling of the machines and grouping of chemicals to set the drug production in motion. It will take at least 10 days for the work to complete and only then the full operations in the company can start," a company spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

APIs like Azithromycin Dihydrate and Azithromycin Monohydrate, which are needed to fight Coronavirus, are manufactured at the Nanjangud facility. These have been identified as a frontline treatment for the infection.

Since the incident of infection of a staff came to light, Jubilant Generics said its management has been in continuous real-time communication with all its employees and would continue to address their concerns. The company is focused on taking care of the community around the plant and its employees, Desiree Crasto, the company Public Relations Officer told *SOM*.

After the incident, the Jubilant set up committees and action groups for employees' welfare as well as to communicate with them to address their concerns. "The multiple committees formed are responsible for welfare of employees and their families and the community around our plant. They are ably serving the needs in time with active help and support from the local administration," the statement added.

"All 1,552 employees of the facility (including contract workers) were tested and 96 percent were found to be negative, less than 4 percent of the total employees tested positive and 80 percent of these were asymptomatic. All the employees have since been discharged and there has been no COVID-19 case in the last 26 days," she said.

"Going forward, the company has worked out a detailed robust plan for preventive measures in line with the guidelines of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons and Ministry of Home Affairs. The company hopes to resume its operations soon," the PRO added.

# Govt. to set up 'Open Hospitals' if Corona cases rise rapidly: Health Minister

Chitradurga, May 25- Amid concerns over rising COVID-19 cases in the State, Health Minister B. Sriramulu said that the State Government is planning to set up 'Open Hospitals' since there are indications of a rapid spurt of the deadly pandemic in June and July.

Speaking to presspersons at Molakalmuru in the district, which Constituency he represents in the Assembly, Sriramulu said that the Open Hospitals will be set up in large open spaces such as Stadiums and Auditoriums on a temporary basis.

Pointing out that such type of hospitals are already in existence in badly affected Western countries, he said that only those people with COVID-19 symptoms will be examined and treated in such hospitals.

*B. Sriramulu*

Maintaining that Open Hospitals help in screening a large number of people, he said that a decision in this regard will be taken by the Government constituted COVID-19 Task Force Committee. The Minister further said that in the backdrop of fears of COVID-19 spreading to rural areas, appropriate measures were being taken to contain the spread of the pandemic.

Replying to a query, Sriramulu said that a decision on ending wage disparity between Allopathy and Ayurveda doctors will be taken on Tuesday.

# Namaz from home

**(Continued from page 1)**

With lockdown regulations in place, people were seen exchanging greetings through cell phones. However some people attempted to enter the Kabrastan behind the Central Jail to offer prayers to their departed near and dear ones. But they had to retreat as there was a posse of Policemen posted at the spot.

The Police had provided tight security in Tilaknagar, Udayagiri, Shanthinagar, Beedi Colony, Ghousia Nagar, Rajivnagar, Bharathnagar, N.R. Mohalla, Mandi Mohalla and Lashkar Mohalla. The Ramzan celebrations went off peacefully with no untoward incident reported from any part of the city.

DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda supervised the security arrangements.

# Free Counselling for tobacco and nicotine addicts

Mysuru, May 25- To mark the World Anti-Tobacco Day which is observed on May 31, St. Mary's Hospital (Psychiatric, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centre) has organised a free counselling (face-to-face and telephonic) for tobacco and nicotine addicts at its premises on Manandavadi Road near Silk Factory Circle in city on May 30 between 11 am and 4 pm.

For details, contact Mob: 99645-88340 or 97399-67550.

# India will not host any Intl. event in immediate future: Sports Minister

New Delhi, May 25- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that India will not host any international event in the immediate future and fans will have to learn to live with the new normal of sporting activities happening behind closed doors in the post-COVID-19 world.

Rijiju's statement gain greater significance in the context of the suspended IPL, which the BCCI wants to host in October-November in case the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia is postponed.

"We have been working for quite some time now to resume sporting activities but before that we have to think about practice and training. We are not going to have a tournament kind of situation immediately," Rijiju was quoted as saying in a section of the Press.

"We have to learn to live with the situation where sporting events will have to be carried forward without spectators in stadiums and sports venues," he added.

Talking specifically about the 13th edition of IPL, which has been put on hold for an indefinite period due to the pandemic,

*Kiren Rijiju*

Rijiju said it is the Government's prerogative to take a call on conducting any tournament in the country.

"In India, the Govt. has to take a call and it will take a call depending on the situation. We cannot put health at risk just because we want to have a sporting event. Our focus is fighting COVID and at the same time we will have to work a mechanism to get back to normalcy. It is difficult to confirm dates but I am sure we will have some kind of sporting events this year," he said.

Rijiju's statement came close on the heels of Sports Authority of India (SAI) laying out a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for resumption of sporting activities across the country in a phased manner.

"In the background, their (athletes) fitness and everything have been tracked. They are in touch with the coaches, the fitness experts, the high performance directors. We are monitoring each and every athlete who are of the higher stature, who played for India and higher clubs," he said.

The Sports Minister, however, reiterated that resumption of sporting activities will entirely depend on guidelines of respective States and local administrations. Asked about the prospect of the Tokyo Games that were scheduled for this year but were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic, the Sports Minister said he is hopeful of the quadrennial event taking place on the revised dates.

"Olympics is still far away and we have full confidence in the Japanese Govt. and IOC and every country will support that the conduct of Tokyo 2021 will not be postponed. There are too many stakes in Olympics, so it is difficult to even foresee that Olympics can be postponed," he said.

# With no train on Ch'nagar route, city faces shortage of construction workers

Mysuru, May 25 (SPN&DM)- The suspension of passenger train service between Mysuru and Chamarajanagar, like all other passenger trains across the country following the COVID-19 lockdown, has resulted in Mysuru facing shortage of construction workforce as many workers used to arrive in the city from their villages by this train (Mysuru-Chamarajanagar).

The stopping of the train service has deprived scores of construction workers, daily wagers and all other sections of the working class, who hugely depend on this train to travel to the city from their villages in Chamarajanagar district. The absence of workers from Chamarajanagar and Nanjangud has made a huge impact on the construction industry in Mysuru, with the industry feeling the pinch.

Basavaraju, a labourer from D.Salundi village in the taluk said that only a few construction workers from the taluk have returned to work in Mysuru following lockdown relaxations. Most of the workers are scared of the Coronavirus and are hesitant to report for work with contractors and builders and this has added to the woes of the construction industry in the city, which is already hard hit by the departure of migrant skilled workers from Bihar and other Northern States, Basavaraju said and added that workers will refrain from visiting the city as long as the COVID19 scare remains.

He said fear still persists among workers that they too may contract the virus if they work in areas that were once part of Containment Zones.

# Double murder over petty issue: Man arrested

Mysuru, May 25 (RK&DM)- A man has been arrested on charges of double murder over a petty issue in city, Police said this morning. The accused Yogesh (23) was arrested for allegedly killing T. Manjunath (33) and R. Manjunath (35) of Yedahalli village in the taluk, Police said.

The duo and another person Murthy were travelling in goods auto and Yogesh was travelling in passenger auto. A clash broke out between the two groups as the vehicles met with an accident, post which Yogesh stabbed T. Manjunath and R. Manjunath.

**Details:** T. Manjunath, the driver of a goods auto was travelling on the Mysuru-Manandavadi Road along with two passengers R. Manjunath and Murthy, to Kotehundi at about 7.30 pm yesterday. But on the way, the goods auto collided with an oncoming passenger auto near Kotehundi Gate at Jayapura Hobli.

After the accident in which no one was injured, a verbal duel broke out between the goods auto driver T. Manjunath and the passenger auto driver Yogesh of Parasayyanahundi. An enraged Yogesh repeatedly stabbed T. Manjunath and R. Manjunath with a knife while Murthy, the second passenger in the goods auto managed to escape.

Police said that the fight broke out as the goods auto was carrying passengers and Yogesh told Manjunath that he was violating rules which say only passenger autos are supposed to ferry people.

Due to severe bleeding caused by multiple stabbing, T. Manjunath died on the spot while R. Manjunath, said to be an employee of TVS Factory at Tandavapura, was rushed to K.R. Hospital in Mysuru, where he breathed his last sometime later.

Yogesh succeeded in fleeing from the spot after committing the crime even before nearby villagers could gather. He was, however, arrested this morning. Mysuru South Circle Police Inspector Jeevan conducted the mahazar. The Jayapura Police have registered a case.

# Skill Training at RUDSET Institute

Mysuru, May 25- RUDSET Institute, Mysuru, which was closed for public from Mar.17 following COVID-19 outbreak, may reopen as per the orders from the District Administration following Lockdown-4.0. Hence, RUDSETI, Mysuru, has invited applications from youths in the age group of 18 to 45 years, who are residents of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts, for different skill training programmes.

Applications must be sent through e-mail (mysrudset@yahoo.com) only as social distancing is still compulsory. Candidates can write the bio-data in their own handwriting stating the training programme they intend to undergo along with their mobile phone number and photocopy of Aadhaar Card.

For details, contact RUDSET Institute, Hinkal, on Ph: 0821-2519663 or Mob: 81055-26792, according to Institute Director.

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## MYSURU

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Persons observed till date | : | 5,607 |
| Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation | : | 5,112 |
| Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers) | : | 493 |
| Persons isolated in hospital for active cases | : | 2 |
| Total samples tested | : | 7,474 |
| Samples found negative | : | 7,382 |
| Samples found positive (cumulative) | : | 92 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 90 |
| Death toll so far in Mysuru | : | 0 |

## MANDYA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Mandya | : | 254 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 27 |
| Death toll so far in Mandya | : | 0 |

## KARNATAKA & INDIA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Karnataka | : | 2,182 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 705 |
| Death toll so far in Karnataka | : | 44 |
| Total active cases in India | : | 77,103 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 57,720 |
| Death toll so far in India | : | 4,021 |

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 24. Media bulletin for May 25 not available)

*Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.*